

country appear gradually to modify their character, and even their features, so as to resemble their native associates. Mimicry, if protective, may, it is claimed, have originated in "sports." But it is not always protective; and of the curious resemblances which we find amongst insects, few would deceive a sharp-sighted bird. Mimicry appears, then, to be caused by an impulse, not to be the result of chance resemblances that have been stereotyped by the struggle for life. Why should living creatures mimic some of the peculiarities which they see about them and not others? We do not know. Children are exceedingly imitative, but they select for imitation sometimes one trait, at other times another. One or two new species of flowers have been known to arise and establish themselves, without man's active interference, since the time when botanical observation commenced. But their distinctive peculiarities are of trifling importance, and no evidence can be discovered of the movement of evolution—as an actually working process—unless we assume that the changes that have occurred within historical times in the character of some bacterial diseases, indicate that some new species have sprung into existence amongst microbes. The great development of the present era of geology has been in the civilization of mankind, and we may fancy that Nature stood still in astonishment at this—the

culmin-
ating triumph of Life's activity.

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The changefulness of Life is
represented in
mankind by a definite instinct—the
desire of
variety, which is severely repressed by
the bonds
of habit, but has powerfully contributed
to human